DAN TRUJILLO/POST-RECORD

Team Construction workers began dismantling Doc Harris Stadium on a chilly Monday morning. A new 12,078-square-foot sports complex will be built in its place, and is scheduled to be ready for football next fall.

A Camas icon comes crashing down

❑ Deconstruction of Doc Harris Stadium began Monday

By Dan Trujillo
Post-Record staff

What was once a locker room became a pile of twisted metal and rubble Monday, as Team Construction began dismantling Doc Harris Stadium at 7 a.m.

On one of the walls left standing, temporarily, were the words "Camas Pride." It was a fitting tribute to the place the Papermakers called home for 50 years. Every time the football and soccer players ran out of that locker room, they remembered seeing those words. And on a day when Doc Harris Stadium looked almost unrecognizable, those words are never forgotten in Camas.

Deconstruction should continue throughout the week, weather permitting. In its place will be a brand new 12,078-square-foot stadium. Old Doc Harris could only protect about 1,600 fans from the rain. The new park should be able to keep around 3,000 warm and dry. The project is part of the $113 capital improvement plan approved by Camas voters in February 2007.

Capital Programs Manager Heidi Rosenberg said the construction for the new complex is estimated around $7 million. It is scheduled to be complete in time for football practice in August 2010.

Forgotten on rainy and foggy nights, Doc Harris Stadium is remembered for intimate atmosphere it provided to fans. It was also lucky enough to host several playoff games over the last decade, including the state boys soccer championships in 2003 and 2004.

On Oct. 30, an estimated 5,000 fans attended the Camas-Union football rivalry game. It was the largest crowd in Doc Harris Stadium history. One of the posters illustrated by Camas students let Union know whose house they were in. It said, "you may have our zip code and our colors, but you will never have our Camas pride."

On Nov. 7, the Camas girls soccer team defeated Lakeside 3-0 in the final game at Doc Harris Stadium. Head soccer coach Roland Minder had these final words to say about the place the Papermakers have always called home.

"Doc Harris, we love you," he said.